

VISTA'S ECHOES

DECEMBER 2014

Ed-itorial

It is that season. The sights, the sounds, the smells, the excitement and the anticipation are palpable. Thanksgiving? Christmas? New Year's? No, I speak of course of the college football bowl season. To quote Andy Williams, "It's the most wonderful time of the year".

Being born and raised in Nebraska, college football is in my genetic code, and I have to admit that I enjoy the bowl season most of all. Usually it is two evenly matched teams, at a neutral site with nothing much on the line except pride and the will to win. Some of the best games ever are during the "Lesser" Bowls; like a couple of years ago when the U of A came back to beat Nevada in the Las Vegas bowl. What a game that was!

Yet on a more serious note, it is time for another season, a season with its own wonderful sights, sounds, smells and anticipation. Christmas is soon upon us and in the midst of family, friends, food and football let us never forget the wonderful and miraculous reason for this season, the precious gift of our Savior Jesus Christ.

So enjoy it all, root for your team, have fun, but please remember to worship and honor the birth of our Lord.

Blessings, ED



WALK to BETHLEHEM

December 10, 11, and 12, 2014

The Walk is just around the corner! Hopefully everything is on schedule to proceed. Actors, please remember our 1st rehearsal on Tuesday, Dec. 2 at 5pm and our dress rehearsal at 6pm Tuesday, Dec. 9th. On the nights of the Walk, plan to arrive by 5:15 if you would like to have a sandwich and a cookie before we go to work!

Don't forget to tell your friends and family about reserving their time for the Walk. They can do it online at www.vistaumc.org, or call 520-539-3406 to schedule a time.

Thank you all for your contributions to make this this event possible. Your generous gifts of time, talent, and loaned items, make it possible for us to provide our community with a memorable experience of what it may have been like in Bethlehem on the night of our Savior's birth. Your volunteerism and generosity is greatly appreciated.

Pam Holder

December 6th COOKIE EXCHANGE at 1:00PM

Bring 3 Dozen Cookies to Exchange With Everyone

(You can sub candy for one of the Dozen Cookies)

Bring a Wrapped Gift (\$10.00 or under) for a fun gift exchange

If you do not want to bake cookies you can bring "store bought" cookies

But please make them "gourmet" cookies!

For more information Call Barbara Sherman 825-5426



SNAK PAK

Many thanks to all for their contributions to the Thanksgiving offering, which will help pay for the Snak Pak program. Each week during the school year 50 students at Coronado K-8 who are judged to be nutritionally at risk, receive a bag of nutritious, child-friendly-food. The food is purchased by Vista and Santa Catalina Catholic Church, picked up from the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona by Vista volunteers, packed by volunteers from both participating churches, and delivered to school by Vista volunteers.





SENIOR HOUSING OPTIONS

When More Help is Needed: Later-Life Transitions & Choices ***

Friday, January 23, 2015 - 12:30 to 3:00 pm - Santa Catalina Catholic Church Parish Hall
Register by January 14, 2015 520-825-9611 extension 104

(By Your Side will provide on-site respite care that afternoon. Mention when you register if you will be bringing someone needing this service.)

How do you know it's time for a transition?
Emotional aspects of making transitions
Defining the options
Questions to ask and resources
Services to help you stay in your home
Who pays for long term care
Financial planning

Workshop presenters who will speak to the above issues are:

Mara Levin, MSW Health Advocacy Coordinator, Interfaith Community Services
Sal Orlando Medicare Health Benefits/Healthcare Solutions
Barbara McClure Executive Director, IMPACT of Southern Arizona

Visit our information tables for more information and materials

Pima Council on Aging
Pinal-Gila Council for Senior Citizens
Golder Ranch Fire District
Interfaith Community Services

IMPACT of Southern Arizona
SaddleBrooke TRIAD
Alzheimer's Association
Business Resource

WARM CLOTHING AND BEDDING DRIVE COMING UP!

As you get ready for the "chilly weather" season, please consider donations of clean, gently used outerwear and bedding for area residents who need these items. We will be collecting coats, sweaters, hats, gloves and scarves throughout the month of December. Clothing of all sizes is needed. We also welcome donations of blankets and quilts. A box in the narthex will be available for your use. **IMPACT** of Southern Arizona will gratefully accept our donations and see that they are distributed where the needs are greatest.

Benith MacPherson, Liaison for IMPACT

TUCSON HOSPITALITY INN

Christmas is upon us with the hustle and bustle of shopping for gifts, events to attend, cards and letters to write, cooking, and all the extras we do. It's easy to lose sight of the reason for it all and I hope each of you is able to attend the Walk to Bethlehem to get in the real spirit of the season. The Inn will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday, December 6 in the hopes that those decorations will bring some joy to those who have to stay at the Inn over the holidays.

As of the second week of November, the following were staying at the Inn: Melody and Mary, mother and wife of Danny, from Little Rock, Arkansas. Danny has a blood clot on his brain; Michelle and Lisa, sisters of Sally from Cave Creek, AZ; Sally, who is 40 years old, has brain cancer; Joy, wife of Tilman, from Mesa, AZ. He has an aneurism and is critical; Judy, whose husband Mike has mouth cancer. They are from Safford, AZ; and Peggy from Denver, CO, who is being treated for rhino cancer.

A most of you know, the Inn's second HVAC system went out and was replaced at the cost of \$7500. Half of that was covered by a donation. I asked for contributions for the other half of \$3750. So far the Inn has received \$1600 from Vista members. Thank you for your generous help!

Since THI is a 501 (c) (3) Qualifying Charitable Non-Profit, several couples and singles have taken advantage of this to donate to THI and will receive Arizona dollar for dollar tax credit on their Arizona Tax return. The maximum credit for couples is \$400; for singles it is \$200. If you do not claim Arizona as your permanent residence, you can still deduct your donation as a charitable donation. Please make your check out to Tucson Hospitality Inn and put HVAC in the memo line; mail it to Lou Tompkins, Tucson Hospitality Inn, 2539 E. Edison Street, Tucson, AZ 85716. You will receive a letter acknowledging your gift.

Thank you all for your support and prayers for the Inn and your generosity this year. Whether you donated a can of soup, gave linens, or donated time or money, you have helped the Inn provide a home away from home for those in medical crises.

Kay Gragg, THI Team Leader

CELEBRATIONS

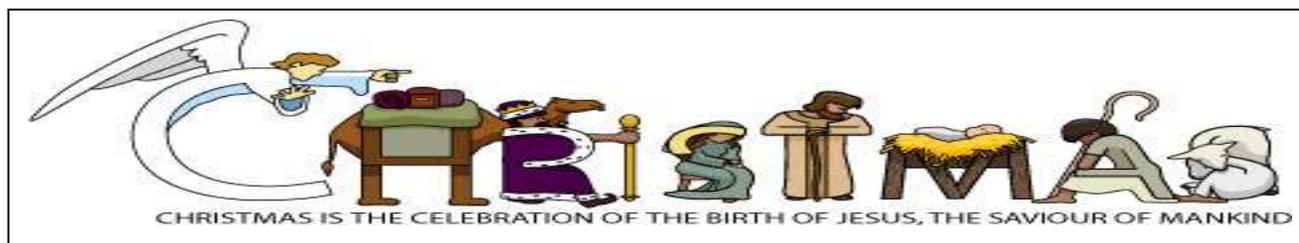
Happy Birthday To:

HOTCHKISS, Curtis	12/01
MILLER, Shirley	12/01
KOELLING, Jerry	12/05
WALDO, Marilyn	12/08
WATKINS, Stuart	12/09
BOLAR, Marlin	12/10
NEWMAN, Shirley	12/10
WILSON, Jan	12/11
SNYDER, Donna	12/14
RAYNOR, Mary	12/16
ROBERTS, Kim	12/16
HARRINGTON, Joanne	12/17
MILLER, Paul	12/17
CURTIS, Carol	12/18
JOHNS PHD, Micki	12/18
MADDEN, Barb	12/18
CALAVAN, Phyllis	12/19
KARCHER, Cynthia	12/19
RUTKOWSKI, Marv	12/19
TERRY, Carl	12/20
BULL, Fred	12/21
DE WINDT, Charlotte	12/22
GILMOUR, Joanne	12/23
GRIFFIN, Linda	12/23
BLEESS, Von Ceil	12/24
AUGUST, Don	12/25
BONNEAU, Edward	12/25
RUPE, Marvin	12/25
KUHN, Barb	12/27
HUBBARD, Harold	12/28
LITTLE, Betty	12/30
ENSING, Spud	12/30



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

O'DONALD, Jay & Louise	12/01
KUHN, Jack & Barb	12/04
NEVINS, Dick & Ilene	12/08
NEWMAN, Wayne & Shirley	12/10
HOTCHKISS, Curtis & Michelle	12/15
PETERSON, Art & Shirley	12/19
ANDERSON, Dave & Maureen	12/29
STODDARD, Bud & Pat	12/30





MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EARLY ... WE NEED YOU! NOW!!!

Since Vista's Stephen Ministry program began in 1999, 32 persons have been trained and served as Stephen Ministers. We currently have 11 active Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministry is a vital part of Vista's ministries. A new class made up of members of Vista, St. Mark's UMC and Santa Catalina Catholic Church will begin SUNDAY JANUARY 4, 2015 IF WE HAVE AT LEAST 8 PERSONS ENROLL. The class provides 50 hours of training which equips men and women to have the skills and confidence to minister 1-on-1 to persons in stressful situations who are hurting due to life changes. Stephen Ministers are not "counselors" or "therapists"; they ARE caring people who want to help a man or woman who needs a listening, caring friend. A real perk of the training is improved communication with your own family and friends. Our own Pastor Ed is a Stephen Leader and will teach two of the 16 sessions dealing with distinctively Christian caregiving; Pastor Laszlo Vega at St. Mark's UMC is also a Stephen Leader and will teach at least twice.

The class will meet from 12:30 to 3:00 ... no class on Easter or Mother's Day! There will also be two Saturdays when we'll meet with trainees from churches all over Tucson to hear presentations from professionals on six very important issues facing many individuals today: domestic violence, substance abuse and addiction, ministering to Alzheimer's patients and their families, to the depressed, to the grieving, to the suicidal and to families of suicide victims.

The first classes in January and February deal with getting to know yourself, feelings (yours, mine and ours), the art of listening, confidentiality, and maintaining boundaries in caregiving. Time is devoted to distinctively Christian caring and providing spiritual care; using mental health professionals and other community resources. We learn about assertiveness ... relating gently and firmly ... as well as process vs results in caregiving. Caring for people before, during and after hospitalization is covered as well as ministering to persons needing long-term care. Learning about ministering to those experiencing losses related to aging is a vital part of our training.

Look for one of Vista's Stephen Ministers (wearing special blue name badges) and ask them questions you may have about the program or call me at home. Our Stephen Ministers have bonded into a support group for one another and feel enriched by our training. We feel we've received much more than we've given. Please take this opportunity to join us. Couples are welcome. I need your completed application soon so that your training materials can be ordered and received in time.

Mary Louise Roberson 297-6053

Mission Outreach Ministry

As December is upon us it is hard to believe that we are reaching the end of another year and what a blessed year it has been for our Mission Team. We have adopted a new ministry **Family First in Oracle**, seen **Catalina Community Services** change its name to **IMPACT** and expand to include additional communities up the *Copper Trail* and donations of hundreds of dollars and hundreds of pounds of food goods to support this community program. **Tucson Hospitality Inn** has had a mostly full house and done some impressive upgrades to the Inn for their guests. The **Snak Pak Food** program partnered with the **Catholic Mission of Catalina** has added additional children to the program, **Vista** has sponsored 114 student with their school supplies and held another terrific *Celebration of Learning Festival* with our sister church **Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta, Mexico**, we have celebrated the graduation of all 5 of the Seminary Students we have been supporting, along with 3 adults from Adult High school, and are sponsoring Scholarships for 15 young people studying for a secondary education, had good sales of coffee and cards to advance the Economic Advancement Program at our sister church. We have given lovely handmade clothes, all 212 items, that the **Creative Hands** group have made for 2 of our ministries Impact's Clothing Bank and Family First. In honor of Memorial Day, we sent \$1500.00 to **Davis Monthan AFB** for the deployed troops Family Program and Phone Cards. Also an additional \$1500.00 to the **Wesleyan Center at the U of A** as well as support for the Mission programs of our **Annual Conference and UMCOR** thru our apportionments. That is a list for Vista to be proud of and does not cover everything, but these are some of the highlights. We are so grateful for our new pastor who is so supportive of our Mission work. Thank you Pastor Ed and thank you Vista church, for only eternity will tell the impact your generosity and support has had on these Ministries but we have had the joy and blessing of being a part of God's work here on earth.

As promised last month, I want to give you a report on our great trip to our sister church Fuente de Vida in Agua Prieta Mexico for the celebration of Learning Festival on Nov. 1st. We departed promptly at 7:00AM in a very comfortable 50 passenger, touring bus with a very friendly driver, for the scenic drive thru Bisbee to Agua Prieta Mexico. There were only 22 of us, so we had a lot of room to stretch out. In the week prior to our departure, Pastor Gela came to Vista and picked up all our supplies for the trip and had them waiting for us when we got there. Wow, what a blessing that was as we were able to sail thru the border crossing, after a short inspection stop, in just a very short time and were at the campus by 10:00 AM. That gave us time to get all our supplies and materials to the different venues where we held the various activities of the day. AT 11:00 AM we were ready to start the program at the church building. There was standing room only, with many standing at the back of the church. We introduced our visiting sponsors from Vista to their child and took pictures with them. What fun to see how pleased the kids were to see their sponsors, who made it possible for them to have all their school supplies for their school year. We opened with prayer and then gave a greeting to everyone from Vista and once again spoke of the importance of continuing their education, and staying in school, bearing in mind that many of the parents never got to have an education. Pastor Ed was next and I interpreted for him a short greeting and then he led us in a time of songs, including "Jesus loves me" and an African song for us to learn. He sure does play a mean guitar!! We then began the ceremony of awarding the Certificates of Achievement to half of the 41 students who achieved a B+ or better average in this last school year (last year there were only 29 recipients). We first called up the mother by name and awarded her a gift bag of goodies and then her child who received a Certificate, a gift card and had their photo taken with their Mother by our terrific photographer Bob Snider. One mother had 4 of her children awarded for their good grades. The children had a little pageant prepared for us depicting the "Happy Train" of Life. They built a train out of cardboard boxes and

it had an engine and a caboose on it and 3 empty box cars in the middle as the train roamed around it was accompanied by a singer that narrated the pageant in song. Only passengers representing Love, Faith and Generosity could get aboard and Selfishness, Greed, Etc., Etc.. who tried to board, were not allowed onto the train of Happiness. It was very cute and we all enjoyed the clever pageant. We then continued giving out the Certificates to the remaining 20 students, followed by Pastor Gela giving a much deserved recognition and words of appreciation to Jan Hopke-Almer for all her efforts as the director of Education for our school program at Fuente de Vida. After the benediction we all moved to the old trailer, the former church space, for a delicious lunch prepared by the women's co-op, of rice, beans and chicken salad followed by a cupcake for dessert. After lunch the Arts & Crafts program started and the kids had a great time decorating sun visors and making decorative crosses with tissue paper, led by the craft team headed up by Benith MacPherson and Jan Hopke-Almer. John Crown and his team set up games and competitions all over the place including the dusty streets. They did a great job and as the kids won an event they rushed to the Computer Classroom that had been set up by the prize team led by Glenna Snider and presented their ticket at the door, an entrance into this "fairy land" of choices for their ticket. At times the line to the prize room went out the building and all the way down the street. The kids had a great time picking up all the goodies you made possible for them. Even at Christmas, they will not begin to get the abundance of this day. The smiles on their faces, was worth all the effort that this event takes to pull off. Pete Rice was out outdoors photographer and got some great shots. By 2:30PM we were back on the bus and headed for the US border and then on to Vista by 6:00 PM just as the sun was setting on a wonderful day. As we returned on the bus, we share with each other what a great day we all had and what a blessing it was to our lives to be part of it. I want to thank all 22 of you who took the time and effort to go with us and hope many more will join us next year on the 1st Saturday of November on the 7th in 2015. We will be waiting for you!!

I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and only joy and blessings in 2015!

Thank you again for your support of Vista's Mission Outreach Ministry in 2014.

We will meet on the first Wed, Dec.3rd for our final meeting for the year. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to your company.

Yours in Mission service:

Dee Berman Director

520-825-7115

deerick1968@gmail.com





**Celebration of Learning
Students From
Fuente de Vida**

**RIGHT: Benith MacPherson
with
Her special person**



**BELOW: Jim Hathaway
With his sponsored child**



**ABOVE: Glenna Snider with
Estephania and Estephia**

**RIGHT: Ginny Jackson with her
Student**





**ABOVE: Pete Rice
With Sponsored
Student**



**ABOVE:
Marilyn & Duane Waldo
With their sponsored student**



**Sponsored Students
And
John Crown**

**RIGHT: The Hotchkiss's
Curt and Kourtney
with a student**



CALENDAR

**Vista de la Montaña
United Methodist Church**

3001 E. Miravista Lane
Tucson, Arizona

Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 520-825-1985

E-Mail: VistaUMC@aol.com

Visit Us at Our website:
<http://www.Vistaumc.org>



*Hearts Open Minds Open Doors
The People of the United Methodist Church*

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“Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”.
Matt 11:28.

These familiar words of Jesus beckon us all, but especially those experiencing the grief and pain of losing a loved one. There are many times in life when we grieve, many changes that we mourn, but the loss of a loved one, a family member, or even a dear friend, bring us most often face to face with loss.

If you have lost someone special to you then you are welcome to come, with your burdens and pain, and join others as we explore our sadness and loss. In the midst of the conversations and exploration of our grief, together we will find comfort and hope.

Join us for a six week pre-Lenten grief group. We will be meeting every **Wednesday beginning January 7 through February 11 at 1 p.m.** in the Ed Building at Vista de la Montana UMC. Led by *Reverend Dr. Ed Bonneau and Gerry Alberts*. We welcome you to this time of understanding, sharing and caring.

Please let Reverend Ed, Gerry or the Church office know if you will be attending so we can have enough resources available. Thank you and blessings to you.